Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising ~~wherein said polypeptide is represented by~~ the amino acid sequence as shown in ~~Figure 1a~~SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein ~~or a variant polypeptide which variant is modified by addition, deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue characterised in that~~ said polypeptide has the following characteristics:

i) ~~a polypeptide which~~ preferentially binds ~~the~~ tumour suppressor polypeptide p53 to inhibit the pro-apoptotic activity of p53 when compared to a polypeptide, or variant thereof, as represented by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~Figure 2a~~; and

ii) ~~a polypeptide which~~ includes at least one amino acid residue which residue is ubquitinated.~~; and~~

~~iii) a polypeptide which comprises an amino terminal polypeptide domain wherein said domain is represented between amino acid 1 and 483 of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1a.~~

2. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The polypeptide according to claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1-4~~ wherein said polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence shown in ~~Figure 1a~~SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. – 10. (Canceled)

11. A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1~~according to any of Claims 6-10~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the production of~~ producing the polypeptide ~~according to any~~ of claim 1~~Claims 1-5~~, comprising ~~the steps~~:

i) providing a cell transformed/transfected with ~~a nucleic acid molecule or~~ the vector ~~according to any~~ of claim 11~~Claims 6-11~~;

ii) growing said cell in conditions conducive to the manufacture of said polypeptide; and

iii) purifying said polypeptide from said cell[[,]] or its growth environment.

13. (Currently Amended) An antibody, or binding fragment thereof, which binds the polypeptide ~~according to any~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~Claims 1-5 characterised in that~~ said antibody binds said polypeptide between amino acid residues 1 to 483 of the amino acid sequence shown in ~~Figure 1a~~SEQ ID NO: 1

14. (Currently Amended) [[An]]The antibody according to claim ~~Claim~~ 13 wherein said fragment is an Fab fragment.

15. (Currently Amended) [[An]]The antibody fragment according to claim ~~Claim~~ 14 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of: $F(ab')_2$, Fab, Fv and Fd fragments; and antibodies comprising CDR3 regions.

16. (Currently Amended) [[An]]The antibody~~,~~ or binding fragment thereof~~, according to any~~ of claim ~~Claims~~ 13[[-15]] wherein said antibody is a humanised.

17. (Currently Amended) [[An]]The antibody~~,~~ or binding fragment thereof~~, according to any~~ of claim ~~Claims~~ 13[[-15]] wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

18. (Currently Amended) A[[n]]pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide ~~according to any~~ of claim ~~Claims~~ 1[[-5]] ~~for use as a pharmaceutical~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ~~nucleic acid molecule or~~ vector ~~according to any~~ of Claim[[s 6-]]11 ~~for use as a pharmaceutical~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 19 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an inhibitory RNA molecule or an antisense nucleic acid molecule.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 20, ~~or 21~~ wherein said nucleic acid molecule is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ an antisense molecule or an inhibitory RNA molecule designed with reference to the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1~~Figure 3~~, wherein said antisense or inhibitory RNA molecule is designed to that part of said nucleic acid sequence which encodes amino acid residue 1 to 483 defined as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1~~Figure 1a~~.

23. (Currently Amended) (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 22, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is provided as a transcription cassette comprising an nucleic acid sequence operatively linked to a promoter which promoter transcribes said nucleic acid molecule to produce an antisense nucleic acid molecule, said sequence selected from the group consisting of:

i) a nucleic acid sequence, or part thereof, as represented in SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~Figure 1b~~;

ii) a nucleic acid sequence which hybridises to the sense sequence presented in SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~Figure 1b~~ and which encodes the [a] polypeptide ~~according any~~ of Claim[[s]] 1[[-6]].

24. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 22, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is provided as a transcription cassette comprising a nucleic acid molecule, or part thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

i) a nucleic acid molecule represented by the nucleic acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~Figure 1b~~;

ii) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridises to the sequence in (i) above and which encodes the [a] polypeptide ~~according any~~ of Claim[[s]] 1[[-5]]; or

iii) a nucleic acid molecule which is degenerate because of the genetic code to the sequences defined in (i) and (ii) above; wherein said cassette is adapted such that both sense and antisense nucleic acid molecules are transcribed from said cassette.

25. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 24, wherein said cassette is provided with at least two promoters adapted to transcribe both sense and antisense strands of said nucleic acid molecule.

26. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 24, wherein said cassette comprises a nucleic acid molecule wherein said molecule comprises a first part linked to a second part wherein said first and second parts are complementary over at least part of their sequence and further wherein transcription of said nucleic acid molecule produces an RNA molecule which forms a double stranded region by complementary base pairing of said first and second parts.

27. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~Use according to Claim~~ 26, wherein said first and second parts are linked by at least one nucleotide base.

28. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, ~~Use according to any of Claims 23-27~~ wherein said cassette is part of a vector.

29. (Currently Amended) A screening method to identify an agent which modulates the interaction of a p53 binding protein with a p53 polypeptide wherein said method comprises the following steps of:

~~i)~~ forming a preparation comprising [[a]] the polypeptide ~~according to any~~ of claim 1 ~~Claims 1-5~~ and a p53 polypeptide, or sequence variant thereof, and at least on agent to be tested; and

~~i)~~ determining the activity of said agent with respect to the binding of said polypeptide to said p53 polypeptide.

30. (Currently Amended) A screening method for the identification of an agent which modulates the interaction of a Bcl-2 binding polypeptide with a Bcl-2 polypeptide wherein said method comprises the steps of:

~~i)~~ forming a preparation comprising a polypeptide as represented by the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3~~Figure 2a, or a variant polypeptide which is modified by addition deletion or substitution of at least one amino acid residue~~ and a Bcl-2 polypeptide, or variant thereof, and at least one agent to be tested; and

~~i)~~ determining the activity of said agent with respect to the binding of said polypeptide to said Bcl-2 polypeptide.

31. (Currently Amended) A screening method to identify agents which modulate the ubquitination of a polypeptide comprising the steps of:

~~i)~~ forming a preparation comprising [[a]] the polypeptide ~~according to any~~ of claim 1 ~~Claims 1-5~~, a ubiquitin polypeptide or variant thereof, polypeptide(s) with the specific activity associated with ubiquitin conjugating polypeptides, and at least one agent to be tested; and

~~ii)~~ determining the activity of said agent with respect to the conjugation of ubiquitin to said polypeptide.

32. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~according to any~~ of ~~Claims~~ claim 29, [[-31]] wherein said agent is a peptide or polypeptide.

33. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 32, wherein said peptide[[[/]]or polypeptide is an antibody or antibody binding fragment.

34. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~according to any~~ of ~~Claims~~ claim 29, [[-31]] wherein said agent is an aptamer.